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Message Text

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63
ORIGIN EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 SAM-01 NEA-11 IO-14 FEA-02 SCI-06 EB-11 /148 R

DRAFTED BY EUR/NE:WABUELL,JR.:DAB
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY LONDON

UNCLAS STATE 023620

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, MARR, UK
SUBJECT: NEWS ARTICLE ON US-UK RELATIONS

REF: STATE 23197

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT DAN MORGAN STORY WASHINGTON POST FEB 5 UNDER HEADLINE "US DENIES WORSENING OF BRITISH TIES":

QTE: THE STATE DEPARTMENT STRONGLY DENIED YESTERDAY THAT RELATIONS WITH BRITAIN HAVE TAKEN A TURN FOR THE WORSE AND DECLARED THAT "WE ARE WORKING WITH BRITAIN ACROSS THE BOARD."

QTE: THE STRONG STATEMENT WAS ISSUED BY STATE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN GEORGE VEST, IN RESPONSE TO AN ARTICLE IN YESTERDAY'S ISSUES OF THE WASHINGTON POST THAT LISTED A NUMBER OF ISSUES ON WHICH BRITISH AND AMERICAN POLICY MAKERS WERE AT ODDS.

QTE: VEST DESCRIBED BOTH THE /THRUST" OF THE ARTICLE, AS WELL AS SEVERAL SPECIFIC POINTS, AS /INACCURATE."

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QTE: US GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS CONFIRMED YESTERDAY THAT

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DIFFERENCES BETWEEN WASHINGTON AND LONDON STILL EXIST IN A NUMBER OF AREAS. HOWEVER, THEY STRESSED THAT SECRETARY OF STATE HENRY A. KISSINGER AND OTHER TOP POLICY MAKERS HADADOPTED A "NEW DIPLOMATIC STYLE" WHICH INCLUDES AVOIDING PUBLIC CRITICISM, SHOWING UNDERSTANDING FOR EACH OTHER'S POSITIONS AND COOPERATING MORE BROADLY.

QTE: THE STATE DEPARTMENT SPECIFICALLY DENIED TWO POINTS IN THE POST'S STORY. ONE WAS THAT AT ONE POINT IN 1973, KISSINGER HAD ORDERED A "REVIEW" OF THE LONG-STANDING ANGLO-AMERICAN EXCHANGE OF INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION. THE OTHER WAS THAT IN THE FIRST WEEK OF THE MIDDLE EAST WAR, KISSINGER CANCELED A BRITISH-APPROVED PLAN TO USE A BASE ON ENGLISH SOIL FOR FLIGHTS OVER THE WAR ZONE BY THE SR-71 RECONNAISSANCE AIRCRAFT, THE MORE SOPHISTICATED SUCCESSOR TO THE CAMERA-EQUIPPED U-2 SPY PLANE.

QTE: WHEN ASKED WHAT ASPECT OF THE SR-71 INCIDENT WAS BEING DENIED, VEST SAID: "I CAN'T BE MORE SPECIFIC ON INTELLIGENCE MATTERS."

QTE: THE POST'S SOURCES YESTERDAY STOOD BY THEIR VERSION OF THE TWO INCIDENTS, WHICH HAD BEEN CITED AS IMPORTANT FACTORS IN STRAINS THAT AROSE IN 1973 BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES.

QTE: ONE SOURCE SAID THAT KISSINGER HAD DECIDED AGAINST THE USE OF THE BRITISH BASE WHEN "DETAILS OF DENIABILITY" WERE BEING WORKED OUT. THE SOURCES SAID THAT PRIME MINISTER EDWARD HEATH HAD APPROVED THE PLAN, PROVIDED THAT BRITISH KNOWLEDGE OF IT WOULD BE DENIED IF THE RECONNAISSANCE MISSIONS CAME TO LIGHT AND IMPLICATED THE LONDON GOVERNMENT. AT THE TIME, THE HEATH GOVERNMENT WAS TRYING TO MAINTAIN ITS RELATIONS WITH THE ARAB NATIONS.

QTE: THESE CONDITIONS WERE SAID TO HAVE BEEN UNACCEPT-ABLE IN WASHINGTON AND THE PLAN WAS CALLED OFF.

QTE: AT A PRESS BRIEFING YESTERDAY, VEST DREW A SHARP DISTINCTION BETWEEN WASHINGTON'S PRESENT RELATIONS WITH UNCLASSIFIED

BRITAIN AND THOSE THAT EXISTED LAST FALL.

QTE: US OFFICIALS NOTED YESTERDAY THAT THE UNITED STATES HAD BEEN IN TOUCH WITH BOTH BRITAIN AND FRANCE IN EGYPT, DURING THE POSTWAR PERIOD WHEN KISSINGER WAS INVOLVED IN "SHUTTLE DIPLOMACY" TO ACHIEVE A WITHDRAWAL OF ISRAELI AND EGYPTIAN TROOPS.

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QTE: VEST SAID THAT SINCE A NATO MINISTERIAL MEETING IN BRUSSELS IN DECEMBER, DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS HAVE IMPROVED.

QTE: THE POST STORY SPOKE OF "WIDER DIFFERENCES" BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. VEST SAID THAT "IT IS NOT ACCURATE TO DESCRIBE OUR RELATIONS IN THAT SENSE."

QTE: REGARDING ANGLO-AMERICAN DIFFERENCES IN MULTILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS NOW UNDER WAY WITH THE SOVIET UNION AND ITS ALLIES IN GENEVA AND VIENNA, VEST SAID: "THE FACT THAT WE HAVE DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVES DOESN'T MEAN THAT WE HAD DIFFICULTY WORKING TOGETHER AS A HARMONIOUS TEAM."

2. DECLASSIFY REFTEL. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
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Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, FOREIGN RELATIONS, SURVEILLANCE, AIRCRAFT, NEWSPAPERS, MUTUAL FORCE WITHDRAWALS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 05 FEB 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974STATE023620
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: WABUELL,JR.:DAB
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740254/aaaabyzm.tel
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Review Release Event: n/a
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Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
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